



# JESUITS

Central and Southern

Summer 2022

Following the Example  
of the Good Shepherd,  
**FOUR NEW PRIESTS  
ORDAINED**

Ignatian Year Graces | New Jesuit Communities | The Two Standards





Dear Friends in the Lord,  
Peace of Christ!

The theme of the Ignatian Year is  
“to see all things new in Christ.”  
As we come to the close of the year,  
I hope that each of us in some

way has “seen” something new in Christ. Of course, for Ignatius, “seeing” was never enough; concrete action was to flow from what was seen. Thus, we are given the threefold colloquy in the Spiritual Exercises: What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ? These questions are initially posed during the Incarnation Meditation that has us side by side with the Trinity looking down on our world with all its beauty and its horror. Complacency is not an option; Ignatius demands a response to what we see, and we are not allowed blinders. We cannot choose to become enamored simply with the beauty of the world, nor can we become fixated and despairing over the horrors that we see. For God is at work in all places, calling forth a response and looking for co-workers.

This meditation has led to all that the Society of Jesus is. Our universities, high schools, retreat houses, parishes and social centers are all responses to the Incarnation Meditation. Yet, we don’t look down on the world once. We continually go back to this meditation to see what new and creative responses may be called for.

For the USA Central and Southern Province, this has led to the Office of Ignatian Spirituality, the Brownsville border project and the Jesuit Prison Education Network. I hope the year has led to new responses in your life as well!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Greene, SJ". The script is fluid and cursive.

Thomas P. Greene, SJ  
Provincial

Amigos,  
¡La Paz del Señor!

La temática del Año Ignaciano es “ver nuevas todas las cosas en Cristo”. En la medida en que nos acercamos al cierre de este año jubilar, espero que cada uno de nosotros haya podido “ver” algo nuevo en Cristo. Por supuesto que, para Ignacio, el “ver” nunca era suficiente; era preciso que procedieran acciones concretas de aquello que se veía. Por tal razón, se nos presenta el triple coloquio en los Ejercicios Espirituales: ¿Qué he hecho por Cristo? ¿Qué hago por Cristo? ¿Qué voy a hacer por Cristo? Estas preguntas se proponen inicialmente durante la meditación de la Encarnación que nos pone junto a la Trinidad que contempla el mundo con toda su belleza y, a la vez, todo su horror. La complacencia no es una opción; Ignacio exige de nosotros una respuesta a lo que vemos y no nos es permitido utilizar anteojeras. No podemos elegir enamorarnos simplemente de la belleza del mundo, ni tampoco podemos fijarnos o desesperarnos en medio de los horrores que vemos en él, puesto que Dios obra en todas partes suscitando siempre una respuesta y buscando colaboradores.

Esta meditación ha impulsado a la Compañía de Jesús a ser hoy día lo que es. Todas nuestras universidades, nuestros colegios, casas de retiro, parroquias y centros sociales son una respuesta a la meditación de la Encarnación. Sin embargo, no nos conformamos con mirar el mundo una sola vez. Volvemos constantemente a esta meditación para ver qué tipo de respuestas nuevas y creativas urgen en el mundo de hoy.

Para la provincia Central y Meridional de los Estados Unidos, esto ha resultado en la Oficina de Espiritualidad Ignaciana, en el proyecto apostólico fronterizo en Brownsville y la Red Jesuita para la Educación Carcelaria. ¡Espero que este año haya suscitado también en sus vidas respuestas novedosas!

En cristo,

Thomas P. Greene, SJ  
Provincial



**Jesuits Central and Southern  
Volume IX • Number 2  
Summer 2022**

Editor  
Therese Fink Meyerhoff

Contributor  
Jerry Duggan

Designer  
Tracy Gramm

Jesuits is published and distributed by  
the Jesuits of the Central and Southern  
Province of the Society of Jesus.

4511 West Pine Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108-2191  
314-361-7765

[jesuitscentralsouthern.org](http://jesuitscentralsouthern.org)

Please address all correspondence  
about stories to the editor:  
[UCSCommunication@jesuits.org](mailto:UCSCommunication@jesuits.org)

Send all correspondence about  
addresses, memberships, and  
bequests to the Advancement Office:  
[UCSAdvancement@jesuits.org](mailto:UCSAdvancement@jesuits.org)

Cover: Jesuit novices lead the  
recession following the  
celebration of the Rite of  
Ordination at St. Francis Xavier  
College Church in St. Louis.

## CLARIFICATION

In the winter issue of Jesuits magazine, photo editing introduced a typo in a picture of the display dedicated to St. Louis University High School's first black students. In attempting to remove glare from the glass case, the headline became "Courangeous Pioneers," rather than "Courageous Pioneers." This fault is ours and not a mistake on the part of the good folks at SLU High.



4



8



14

CONTENT ■

2 | Province News

4 | Celebrating Priestly  
Ordinations

8 | The Graces of the Ignatian Year

14 | New Jesuit Communities

16 | Province Women's Committee

20 | Province Congregation Guided  
by the Holy Spirit

22 | Donor Profile: Meet the Shannons

24 | Man in Formation

John Guerra, SJ

25 | Man at Work

Br. Robert Macke, SJ

26 | From the Office of Ignatian  
Spirituality

The Two Standards

28 | In Memoriam

Inside Back Cover | My Prayer Space





## Fr. Mark Lewis, SJ, Appointed Rector of Pontifical Gregorian University

Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Mark A. Lewis, SJ, rector of the Pontifical Gregorian

University in Rome. Father Lewis, a member of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern (UCS) Province, has served as academic vice rector of the Gregorian, a Jesuit-run ecclesiastical university, since 2019. His term as rector will begin on Sept. 1.

Father Lewis was provincial of the former New Orleans Province from 2008 to 2014, when the UCS Province was created. He has taught church history at the Gregorian since 2017.

.....



## Sandra Cassady Becomes First Lay President of Rockhurst University

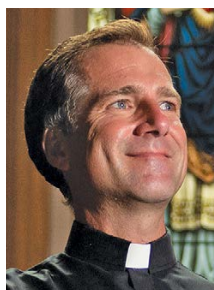
Sandra Cassady, Ph.D., has been named the 15th

president of Rockhurst University, effective July 1, 2022. She is the university's first female and first lay president.

Cassady comes to Rockhurst from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, where she served as vice president for strategic initiatives and dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

"The Catholic, Jesuit mission of Rockhurst University and its vision to create a more just world through inclusive, innovative and transformative education are what drew me to Rockhurst and are closely aligned with my own values and experience," Cassady said.

Cassady will replace Fr. Thomas Curran, SJ, who served Rockhurst as president for 16 years.



## Fr. Justin Daffron, SJ, Named Interim President at Loyola University New Orleans

Father Justin Daffron, SJ, is currently serving as the interim president at Loyola University New Orleans, following the

departure of Tania Tetlow in May. Father Daffron previously served as the school's vice president of mission and identity and worked closely with Ms. Tetlow, Loyola's first lay president.

Ms. Tetlow announced in February that she would leave Loyola to serve as president of Fordham University, a Jesuit institution in New York City.

.....



## Spring Hill College President Announces Retirement

E. Joseph Lee, Ph.D., president of Spring Hill College, announced earlier this year that he will retire at the end of December 2022. He has led the school since 2018, first as interim president before being fully installed in early 2020. The College's

Board of Trustees has begun a national search for a new president and will work to ensure a seamless transition when a replacement is named.

.....

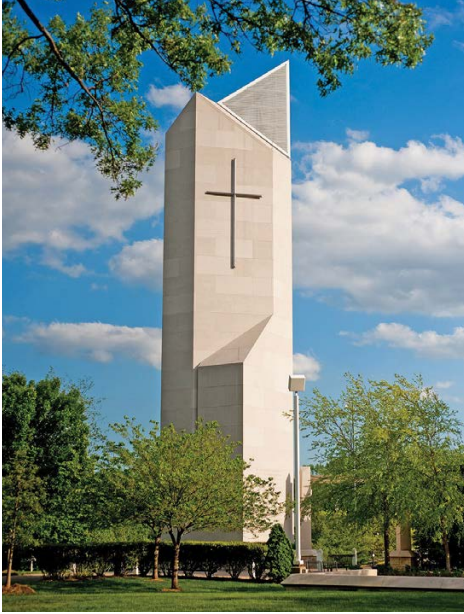


## New Executive Director for JSRI

Annie Phoenix, Ph.D., is the new executive director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI), a joint project between the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province and Loyola University New Orleans.

Throughout her career, Dr. Phoenix has specialized in supporting social justice organizations to identify needs, design programs and secure funding. She began with JSRI on April 1.





## Rockhurst University to Offer Associate Degree Program for Incarcerated Individuals

Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., offers college courses to incarcerated individuals at Chillicothe Correctional Center in Chillicothe, Mo. The Higher Learning Commission recently granted approval for participants in the program to obtain an Associate of Arts degree in liberal studies from the school.

“It has been an honor and privilege to teach and to accompany our companions in Chillicothe these past four and a half years on their educational journey,” said Fr. Thomas B. Curran, SJ, in announcing this milestone. “They have approached their coursework with openness and determination.”

Father Curran has recently completed his service at Rockhurst. Following a brief sabbatical, he will oversee a province-wide program to provide Jesuit college education to incarcerated people. At a gathering earlier this year, the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province and its six colleges approved the Jesuit Prison Education network (JPEN). Currently Rockhurst, Saint Louis University, Regis University and Loyola University New Orleans have educational programs for people who are incarcerated.

### MILESTONES



**Brother Robert J. Macke, SJ**, pronounced his final vows in the Society of Jesus on Feb. 2, 2022, the Feast of the Presentation, in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. Superior General Arturo Sosa received his vows.



**Bill McCormick with Bishop Terrence Prendergast, SJ, and Fr. John Armstrong, SJ**

**William McCormick, SJ**, was ordained a deacon on May 14, 2022, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Toronto. Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, SJ, presided.



**Father Robert Murphy, SJ**, pronounced his final vows in the Society of Jesus on June 5, 2022, at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. Provincial Thomas P. Greene received his vows.

**Fr. Robert Murphy with his parents**

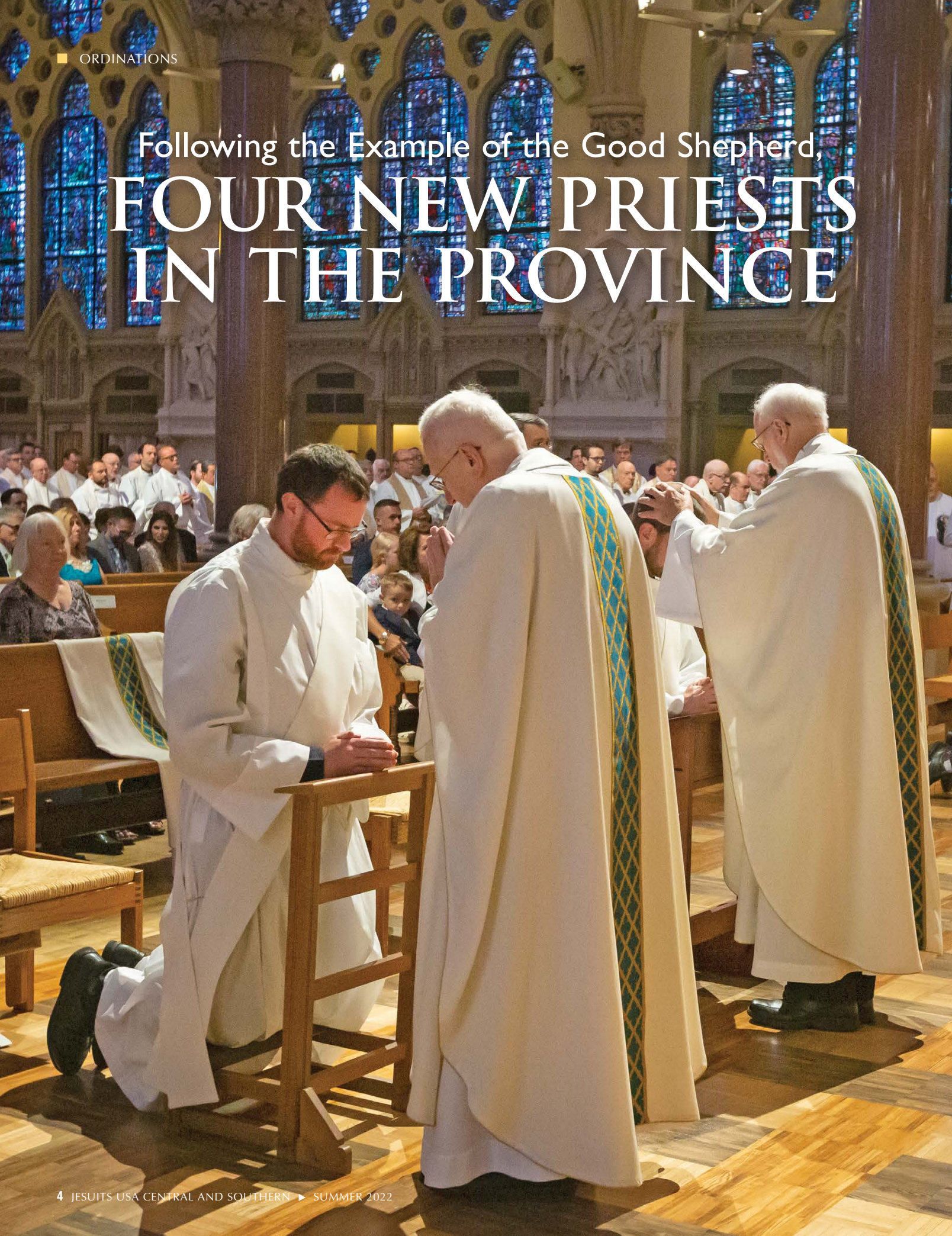


**Father Mark A. Kramer, SJ**, pronounced his final vows in the Society of Jesus on June 13, 2022, in St. Francis Xavier College Church in St. Louis. Provincial Thomas P. Greene received his vows.

**Fr. Mark Kramer (second to right) with his parents and brother, Fr. Stephen Kramer, SJ, also a member of this province.**



Following the Example of the Good Shepherd,  
**FOUR NEW PRIESTS  
IN THE PROVINCE**







**F**our Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province – Thomas A. Croteau, David A. Kiblinger, Jonathon E. Polce and Juan P. Ruiz – have for 11 years journeyed the formation path set down by St. Ignatius Loyola, testing their vocations through studies, teaching, service to the Church and accepting the guidance of their Jesuit superiors. On June 11, 2022, these four Jesuits were ordained priests at St. Francis Xavier College Church in St. Louis.

The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, presided at the sacred liturgy of ordination. During his sermon, he reminded the men that the very heart of the priesthood is found in the words of Jesus in the Gospel the ordinands had chosen for the Mass (John 15: 9-17): “Love one another as I have loved you.”

“Your priestly ministry must be anchored in the love that Jesus has for you and the love you have for him,” Archbishop Rozanski said. “Firmly rooted in the love of our Lord Jesus, you are able then to live out your lives in sacrificial love for the sake of God’s people.”

Fathers Croteau, Kiblinger, Polce and Ruiz have been assigned to Jesuit parishes and a high school to begin their priestly ministries. They are among 17 Jesuits to be ordained in the United States, Canada and Haiti this year.

[Continues]



Father Provincial Thomas P. Greene, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski and Formation Director Hung Pham are flanked by the newest priests in the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province: Fathers Juan Ruiz and Thomas Croteau on the left and Jonathon Polce and David Kiblinger on the right.





Meet the newest priests in the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province:



**FATHER THOMAS CROTEAU, SJ,** was born in Denver and attended Catholic elementary and high schools. It was in middle school that he began thinking about a religious and priestly vocation. He attended Ave Maria University, where he met many religious and priests, including several Jesuits.

“They stood out for me because I could tell that they really enjoyed their ministry,” he said. “They invested in the campus community and sought to connect with students in simple, yet profound ways. I could see myself as one of them.”

During formation, Fr. Croteau studied philosophy at Saint Louis University, taught theology at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas and earned a Master of Divinity at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

Father Croteau will serve at St. Peter Claver Parish in Punta Gorda, Belize.



Born and raised in Cape Girardeau, Mo., **FR. DAVID KIBLINGER, SJ,** attended Catholic schools through high school, then enrolled at Truman State University to study math and physics. After completing a semester-long math program in Budapest, Hungary, he spent the summer backpacking in Europe. Through

God’s providence, he was led to Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he felt the call to deepen his faith. Upon returning to Truman, he started discerning whether he was called to religious life.

After graduating from Truman in 2009, Fr. Kiblinger decided to pursue a master’s degree in theology at Villanova University. During that time, he found he was drawn to the Society of Jesus through Ignatian Spirituality. He entered the Jesuit Novitiate in August 2011.

During novitiate, he celebrated the election of Pope Francis with Mayan Catholics at the Jesuit parish in Santa María Chiquimula, Guatemala. He studied philosophy at Saint Louis University and taught middle school math at *Colegio San Ignacio* in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He did coursework in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame before moving to Boston to complete his theological studies and formation for the priesthood.

His first assignment as a priest is a pastoral year at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Belize City, Belize.





**FATHER JONATHON POLCE, SJ,** was born and raised in Connecticut. After graduating from the University of Dallas in 2009, he went to work for his alma mater's Rome program. There he met Fr. David Brown, SJ, a Jesuit of the USA Central and Southern Province assigned to the Vatican Observatory. It was through Fr. Brown

that Polce came to know more about the Society of Jesus, learned of the life of St. Ignatius Loyola and Ignatian Spirituality, and discerned a call to the priesthood as a Jesuit.

As a novice, he worked at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Prep in Houston, where he worked closely with Fr. TJ Martinez, SJ, the school's first president, who died of cancer at the age of 44.

"TJ impacted my vocation in how he lived his," Fr. Polce said. "Seeing Fr. TJ's total self-sacrificial care and love of his work was a key experience in my discernment to take vows and to give my life to Christ as a Jesuit."

Father Polce studied philosophy and theology at Regis College in Toronto, Canada, and taught theology and worked in campus ministry at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston. He earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Father Polce will serve at Jesuit High School of New Orleans.



**FATHER JUAN RUIZ, SJ,** was born in Baltimore, but raised in Memphis, Tenn. He said his decision to pursue a Jesuit vocation took trust in God and the certainty that God would provide for him no matter what.

As a novice, Fr. Ruiz accompanied migrants, youth and the dying. While studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, he also taught seventh and eighth grade religion classes at St. Procopius Elementary School. He taught Spanish at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School in Houston. He earned a Master of Divinity from Regis College, University of Toronto.

Father Ruiz says that his spirituality has matured since he became a Jesuit.

"The great shift in my spirituality is not that I have strengths to share, but weaknesses as well," he said. "My flaws, shortcomings and faults are gifts to God when given over in surrender. The more that I have handed these over to God, the less bitterness, frustration, resentment or anxiety I have felt in connection with them. Instead, I find God pays me back with the strengths that I share with others."

Father Ruiz will spend the coming year as an assisting priest at the Gesú Church in Miami.





## Making All Things New: **THE GRACES** of the **IGNATIAN YEAR**

**S**uperior General Arturo Sosa established the Ignatian Year as a special time to commemorate the conversion of St. Ignatius Loyola and all the graces that have flowed from that event. The “year” began on May 20, 2021, the 500th anniversary of Ignatius’ wounding at Pamplona. It will end on July 31, 2022, the Feast of St. Ignatius.

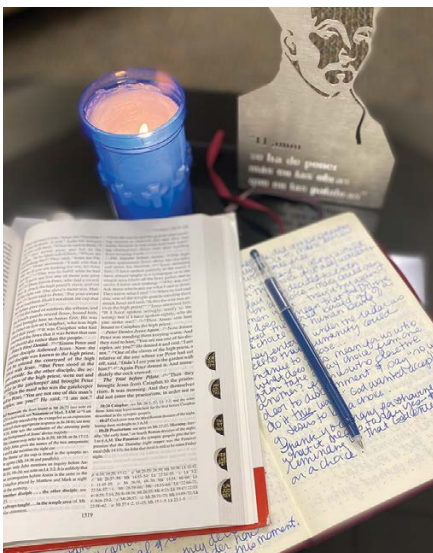
“It is good to remind ourselves that the wound Ignatius suffered in Pamplona was not so much a happy ending, but rather a happy beginning,” Fr. General Sosa said. “Conversion consists sometimes of great moments of change, but it is also a never-ending process. We need to put Christ in the center every time, again and again.”

Around the world and across the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province, people have put

Christ in the center in imaginative and expansive ways. Schools and parishes hosted special events, the province’s Office of Ignatian Spirituality hosted retreats and classes, and Fr. Provincial Thomas P. Greene made a pilgrimage across the province. In some cities in the province, people representing various Jesuit apostolates collaborated on events, bringing together the Ignatian Family in myriad beautiful ways, from an art exhibit in New Orleans to a day of service in St. Louis.

As the Ignatian Year comes to an end, we asked people from around the USA Central and Southern Province to share the graces that came from this time of focusing on conversion and putting Christ in the center. Their reflections follow.





## DALLAS

Most of the graces I received during this Ignatian Year came from my journey through the Spiritual Exercises.

Ignatian Spirituality introduced me long ago to the importance of the development of a reciprocal and loving relationship with God. It was not until I engaged in the Exercises

this year, however, that I understood what such a relationship with God entails. I learned that such a relationship invited me to do a few important things:

- **To show up:** A loving and reciprocal relationship with God means that I have to show up for God as much as God shows up for me. The Exercises gave me the opportunity to witness firsthand how God shows up for me and produced in me a desire to show up in return.

- **To show up as myself:** The Exercises taught me that God wants a relationship with ME. That required me to first understand who I am as a loved human being created by God for some definite purpose. Then, I needed to show up authentically and trust that God wants nothing more than to meet me as I am.
- **To show up as myself and trust that God will do the same:** One of the unique graces I received from the Exercises was the ability to better understand that when I commit to the relationship, God commits right back. I saw firsthand God's willingness to be in relationship with me but also learned that the relationship is nothing without reciprocity. I must trust in the boundless graces God is ready and willing to offer me when I'm ready and willing to accept them.

One of the Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus is "Showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises." I can affirm that the Spiritual Exercises offered me a profound understanding of who God is and what God wants from me. They are truly a gift!

– Gretchen Crowder, Dallas Jesuit College Prep.



## DENVER

As the westernmost outpost of the province, the apostolic works in Denver were especially excited to come together to celebrate the Ignatian Year. A planning group from Regis Jesuit High School and Arrupe Jesuit High School began meeting early in 2021 to figure out how to spend time together as an Ignatian Family. The metro area celebrated two citywide events, a liturgy at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in August and another, celebrated by Fr. Provincial Thomas Greene, at Regis University in November.

The various works in the city also hosted their own events, including a special day of reflection for the Arrupe Jesuit staff, a talk on "Ignatian Imagination as a Tool for



The Jesuits of Denver welcome Fr. Provincial Thomas Greene for an Ignatian Year Mass at Regis University.

[Continues]



Racial Justice” at Regis University, and a talk by writer and podcaster Gloria Purvis at Regis Jesuit entitled “Exploring the Implications of Human Dignity.”

The Ignatian Year has allowed the people at various works in Denver to realize that we are connected by our spirituality and shared mission. One colleague commented at the Mass with our provincial that it was impressive to see how many people throughout the city care so deeply for the mission of the Society and the continued joy found in the Ignatian charism. We often get caught up in the individual work that we do. Coming together, praying together and sharing a meal together are strong reminders that we are not alone in the good work that we do.

– Submitted by Fr. Marcus Fryer, SJ, who served as the Denver-area coordinator for the Ignatian Year

You have *given*  
all to me.  
To you, *Lord*  
I return it.

## GRAND COTEAU, LA.

At some point during this Ignatian Year, I began praying the Suscipe to begin my prayer time each morning. I believe that I have been graced this year by a little more letting go – letting go of not only material things, but more importantly, letting go of personal characteristics that I thought of as “just who I am.”

I believe that I am more able to look at all as a gift, even those personal traits that I felt attached to and could not let go of: judgment, being right. I realize that even those that may be considered negative can be turned into positives to help build the Kingdom. As Thomas Merton wrote, “learn to live as a unified human person.”

– Submitted by Easton Hebert, Retreat / Spiritual Director, Jesuit Spirituality Center

## KANSAS CITY, MO.

In-person campus ministry programming returned to Rockhurst University during the Ignatian Year as we recovered from our own cannonball: the pandemic. The Holy Spirit did not disappoint, as graces, viewed through the lens of the Universal Apostolic Preferences, showered upon and through our students.

### Showing the Way to God:

Each year, students in our Kateri (intentional living) Community are invited to make the Spiritual Exercises through Kansas City’s Ignatian Spirituality Center. One student shared this about her experience:

“... I think before the Exercises, my faith was motivated and experienced largely by fear, but the Holy Spirit has graciously showed me my faith through a lens of love. This has made all the difference in every aspect of my faith!”

In addition, the campus ministry department hosted *Bloom*, a body-image retreat for women that leverages Ignatian Spirituality to encourage retreatants to view themselves as God’s beloved. Participants appreciated the way the retreat opened discussion about vulnerability and affirmation and boosted confidence.

### Walking with the Excluded

Racial reconciliation might rightfully be triaged to the top of our nation’s long list of urgent needs. This year, aided by the support of a Social Grant from the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province, Rockhurst students journeyed to Alabama for our inaugural Civil Rights Solidarity Immersion Trip. Post-trip student evaluations revealed the following graces:

“As an agnostic person, I think there was a great balance of faith/prayer and reflection ... our reflection leaders were amazing, and they created a safe, welcoming and inspiring place for conversations.”

“It was difficult for me to grapple with what my white ancestors did ...”

100% of students reported that the trip pulled them out of their comfort zone.

Rockhurst’s bi-annual Lumberjack Service Retreat invites students into relationship with senior citizens whose geographically isolated living situations reflect the





Rockhurst University students visit the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., as part of a Civil Rights Immersion Trip.

way in which our society pushes them to the margins. In a world in which robots are now being introduced to “care” for nursing home residents, our students instead bestowed tangible graces as they spent a day with our new friend, Randy Eilola. In addition to joining him for lunch and listening to his many stories, the students planted trees and cut, split, delivered and stacked a winter’s worth of firewood.



Rockhurst University students spend a day in service to a senior member of the community.

## Caring for our Common Home

Planting trees can be an important aspect of caring for God’s creation, especially with respect to global climate change. Our students do that annually through student organizations and campus events. However, we likely can’t plant our way out of the looming crisis: each person in the U.S. would need to plant between 725 and 1,000 trees to offset their CO2 emissions (source: 8billiontrees.com). Realizing this, Rockhurst students voted to tax themselves each semester with a Sustainability

Fee to fund environmental initiatives on campus. This sacrificial foresight enabled Rockhurst to replace gas-powered vehicles with electric equivalents. This swap will improve air quality in both the local community (reduction in smog) and global community (reduced carbon emissions).

– Submitted by Bill Kriege, director of campus ministry at Rockhurst University

[Continues]





Dr. Shannen Dee Williams (center), associate professor of history, University of Dayton, spoke on "America's Real Sister Act: Why the Stories of U.S. Black Catholic Sisters Matter" in the Ignatius Chapel at Loyola University New Orleans. She greets a group of Sisters of the Holy Family, a religious congregation of primarily African-American women, founded in 1842 in New Orleans by Venerable Henriette DeLille, a free woman of color.

## NEW ORLEANS

The most beautiful and rewarding grace I experienced during this Ignatian Year was connecting with so many other followers of St. Ignatius of Loyola, what Fr. General Arturo Sosa refers to as "companions in mission."

In New Orleans, we have several official apostolates of the province, as well as ministries like the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, that share history and values with the Jesuits. Once we recognized and acknowledged the frequent overlapping of our respective communities, it was only fitting that we work together to foster individual spiritual development as well as a greater awareness of and appreciation for those who suffer from poverty, discrimination and other injustices. Working together on Ignatian Year activities deepened relationships and opened conversations among people serving in a variety of ministries about collaborating for the Greater Glory of God.

The theme "to see all things new in Christ" and the invitation to a continual conversion gave us an opportunity to step away from the historical norm of working within our organizational boundaries and encouraged us to reimagine the possibilities of how we might individually and collectively go about our work and ministries. It was an opportunity to embrace the Magis available when uniting so many like-minded and like-hearted people.

I am excited to see how our connected communities continue to interact with and support one another even after the Ignatian Year concludes.

— Submitted by Lisa LaFleur Schillace,  
New Orleans director, Ignatian Volunteer Corps



Orlando Portalatin, SJ, (center, in glasses) joins other Colegio San Ignacio faculty in celebrating a successful Kairos retreat during the pandemic.

## SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

When the Ignatian Year began in May 2021, I was just completing my first year as a regent teaching at Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was not only my first time teaching high school students, but it was also a time when I was challenged to teach teenagers in a virtual setting. To complicate matters, my dad passed away during that time. It was not until my annual retreat that summer that I realized how fitting the theme for this Ignatian Year was — to see all things new in Christ. It was an invitation to allow the Lord to work on my conversion.

The virtual teaching world and the limitations imposed by the pandemic opened new ways of accompanying young students and those dealing with the pain of loss.



I had to humble myself and adapt to a way of teaching I was not used to.

With Dad's passing, God invited me to a growing vulnerability and solidarity with those who grieve and suffer. At first, I felt emotionally exhausted. As time passed, however, it became evident I was not in control, but God was.

As I surrendered these uncertainties in prayer, a breath of fresh air began to invigorate my mind and spirit. It was Christ himself uncovering my eyes to see all things new, reminding me that "for God all things are possible."

– Submitted by Orlando Portalatin, SJ,  
Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola



## ST. LOUIS

In February of this year, parishioners at St. Francis Xavier College Church in St. Louis, in collaboration with the province's Office of Ignatian Spirituality, offered a pause along the Ignatian Year pilgrimage path.

With the hope that the virtual environment could, during the age of COVID, become a place of spiritual encounter, two groups within the parish organized a three-part series entitled *Ignatian Spirituality and Antiracism: A Call to Conversion*.

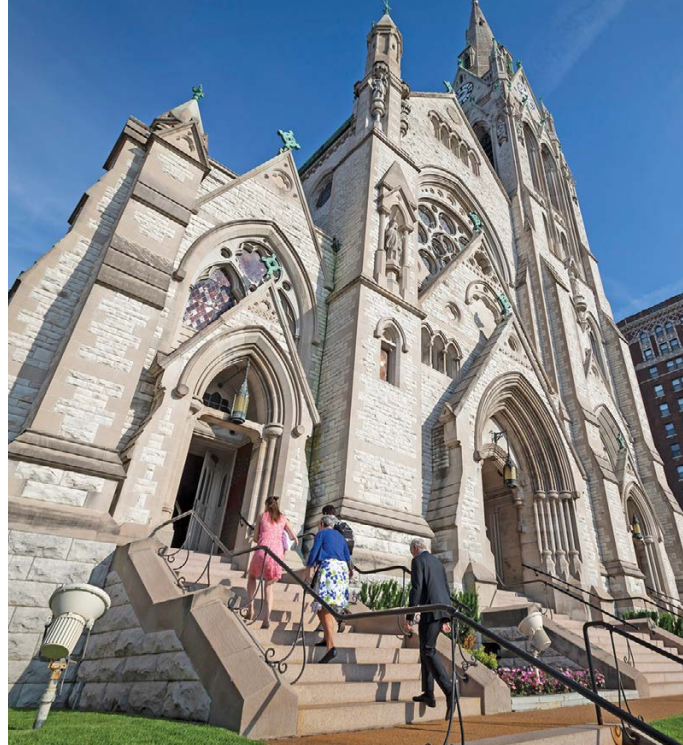
Graces flowed immediately, as leaders and members of Jesuit works across the province and beyond gathered to explore ways Ignatian Spirituality compels us to pursue justice and offers guidance and nourishment for the journey.

The speakers – Fr. Tom Clark, SJ, Danielle Harrison and Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi – lifted the hearts and minds of participants as they shared the ways in which Ignatian Spirituality ignites the work of antiracism.

Father Hung Pham, SJ, who thoughtfully moderated the series, ensured that – despite its significant informational exchange – the program retained its spiritual focus.

"The celebration of the Ignatian Year, and this experience in particular, provided opportunities to live more deeply our Ignatian values," said Lisa Burks, who served on the planning committee and co-chairs the parish's Antiracism Team. "I was grateful for this opportunity to share ideas on faith and justice. It has helped me to grow."

Another of the parish planners, Christine Dragonette, director of social ministry at College Church, said, "One of the biggest graces for me has been the unexpected collaboration and relationship-building the planning



St. Francis Xavier College Church

process brought, especially with (Fr.) Hung (Pham) and the Office of Ignatian Spirituality. It illustrated for me the vast network of relationships in the Jesuit and Catholic world. It was amazing to me that our events reached people across the globe and confirmed that there is a huge thirst for connection and formation in the realm of Ignatian Spirituality and antiracism."

Ms. Dragonette continued, "The events also lent the opportunity to reflect on what antiracism conversion means at the individual, communal and institutional levels. While it may not always be a 'cannonball moment,' I felt an immense sense of gratitude to be reminded of the huge community of people of faith on this journey of conversion."

"There were so many ideas offered in each of those presentations that I continue to ponder them months after the event," said Winnie Sullivan, a parishioner who helped to plan the program and co-chairs the Antiracism Team with Ms. Burks. "A question that remains with me – like a little scallop shell memento – is one that Dr. Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, who spoke about systemic racism, posed: 'How do we institutionalize love?'"

Finally, the spontaneous reflection at the close of each presentation reminded us that the Holy Spirit was at work and that the door to transformation was open.

–Submitted by the St. Francis Xavier  
College Church Antiracism Team



For additional reflections on the Ignatian Year, visit  
**ignatius500.global.**



# NEW JESUIT COMMUNITIES UNDERWAY IN ST. LOUIS

**Jesuit Hall, a 100-year-old former hotel near the campus of Saint Louis University, will soon be replaced by two new Jesuit communities, one for senior Jesuits and one for Jesuits missioned to the university.**



Jesuit Hall

When the Jesuits took up residence in Jesuit Hall in 1973, the 14-story building was the Jesuit Community at Saint Louis University. Over the years, the composition of the community has changed to include fewer professors and administrators and more retired and semi-retired men. Since 1990, an infirmary has been located in Jesuit Hall, with the province providing around-the-clock nursing care for a relatively small number of men.

Today, Jesuit Hall is too large for the number of Jesuits who live there and requires renovations that would cost millions of dollars. It simply no longer meets the needs of the Jesuits in St. Louis.

With these issues in mind, former provincial Fr. Ronald Mercier, SJ, approved a plan in 2020 to create two new communities from the Jesuit Hall community. It was also decided to follow a new model of community living and care for senior Jesuits, one that utilizes the experience and skill of



Delmar Gardens

a proven healthcare provider. After an exhaustive search, the province formed a partnership with Delmar Gardens, a St. Louis-based healthcare provider with an excellent reputation and a corporate commitment to providing compassionate care for the elderly.

“With the number of older Jesuits in our province, we need to be especially attentive to how we are providing senior care,” said Fr. Provincial Tom Greene, SJ. “Moving into a place that was actually designed for assisted living, then remodeling it to suit religious community living, makes it even better for our men.”

Delmar Gardens is renovating one section of their existing retirement community in North St. Louis County and adding on to meet the





specific needs of the Jesuits, including a special program and secure area for Jesuits with memory challenges. The state-of-the-art residence will have a “stand-alone” feel with a distinct entrance to the Jesuit community so that residents and visitors alike have a sense that they are entering a community that is distinctly Jesuit.

With supportive community living and warm hospitality in mind, the new construction will include a large community chapel as well as several smaller chapels; a dining room that can accommodate both daily community meals and special events; a large rec room, a lounge, a library with computer lab, a fitness and wellness center and a hobby room. A wide range of healthcare professionals will be available on site.

“I’m happy to see our elder brothers move into a space more conducive to their needs,” Fr. Greene said. “In addition to ensuring the wellbeing of the Jesuits who have medical requirements, by living in a community surrounded by other seniors, they’ll have pastoral opportunities, helping to meet their social and ministerial desires as well.”

Senior Jesuits are expected to move in before Advent.

For information on donating to the Garden Villas North community for senior Jesuits, contact Paula Parrish, chief advancement officer, at [UCSAdvancement@Jesuits.org](mailto:UCSAdvancement@Jesuits.org).

## SLU JESUIT COMMUNITY

Saint Louis University is building the new Jesuit Center at Saint Louis University. The new community will be located on SLU’s campus and will house the Jesuits missioned to the university. The residence will have 20 bedrooms for Jesuits and five for guests. Because it is intended to function as an apostolic center, it will also feature a chapel large enough for public services and meeting rooms where Jesuits can gather with students, faculty, staff and others.

“It’s the beginning of a new era for the Jesuits at Saint Louis University,” Fr. Greene said. “SLU has the largest number of tenure-track Jesuits of any Jesuit university in the country, and they cover a range of academic disciplines. I’m looking forward to seeing how they form an apostolic team. The Jesuit presence at SLU is strong and will be for years to come.”

The project broke ground in early April 2021 and is expected to be complete before the end of this year.

To contribute to the Jesuit Center at Saint Louis University, contact Sheila Manion at [Sheila.Manion@slu.edu](mailto:Sheila.Manion@slu.edu) or 314-977-2306.



# Women's Advisory Committee



Jesuits and women who share the Jesuit mission gather for a retreat at White House Retreat in St. Louis.



# Continues Its Mission with First-Ever WOMEN'S RETREAT



---

By Therese Fink Meyerhoff

A Women's Advisory Committee for an all-male religious order? While it may seem incongruent, establishing just such a committee is one of the first actions that Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, took as he began his term as provincial of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province. Made up of women leaders and Jesuits, the committee provides a voice on women's concerns and dreams that the provincial and the Society of Jesus might want to take into consideration in their ministries.

"Two things came together for me," Fr. Greene said of his decision to form the committee. "First, as I looked back over all stages of my Jesuit life, I was struck by how much women do to lead in the Church. In many cases, they're really carrying the load. So wouldn't it be good to seek their advice and tap into that experience?"

The second thing was a desire to follow the lead of Pope Francis, who during his tenure has taken several steps to empower women in the Church, including his recent restructuring of the Vatican bureaucracy.

"There are so many women serving in our apostolates and on the province staff, establishing a committee seemed to be one way to formalize their input and advice on what we can do better," Fr. Greene said. "They can point out our blind spots and our gifts."

At its first meeting in October 2020, the members of the Women's Advisory Committee found they were charting a new path. Father Greene made it clear that he wanted members to be forthright, even if that meant some criticisms of the province or the Society of Jesus. Beyond that, members were free to set their own course.



After just a couple of meetings, the committee established three short-term goals:

1. Highlight the array of roles and service of women in the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province. This was reflected in this publication when the Winter 2021 issue featured stories of women in mission alongside the Jesuits.
2. Initiate opportunities for Jesuits to recognize and appreciate what women are doing in the province and the Church, an ongoing objective.
3. Bring together women and Jesuits to listen to one another, share experiences and reflect on their role in Jesuit mission, especially through the lens of the Spiritual Exercises. This was beautifully addressed this March when the province hosted a first-of-its-kind Women's Retreat at White House Jesuit Retreat in St. Louis.

Labeled a "women's retreat" because of its focus on women's experiences as co-laborers in the Society of Jesus' mission, in fact seven Jesuits from the UCS Province attended the retreat alongside 12 women who work for the province or in a province apostolate.

Paula Sapienza, a spiritual director at Sacred Heart Retreat in Sedalia, Colo., led the retreat using stories of women Jesus encountered and the Spiritual Exercises as the basis of her presentations and the group's spiritual conversation.

"Following General Congregation 34, in Decree 14, all Jesuits were invited to 'listen carefully and courageously to the experience of women,'" said Mary Baudouin, the UCS provincial assistant for justice and ecology and a member of the Women's Advisory Committee.

"Our first province Women's Retreat was designed to do just that in a prayerful and significant way. I think that all of the participants would agree that this was a unique opportunity to hear the voices and experiences of women through Scripture, reflection and meaningful spiritual conversation between women working with Jesuits and Jesuits who collaborate in ministry with women."

Father Bill Oulvey, SJ, rector of the Regis University Jesuit Community in Denver, was one of the Jesuits in attendance. "I found the time at White House to be both delightful and a little out of my wheelhouse," he said, explaining that many of his meetings or retreats are with men. "We had very deep, good and sometimes painful conversations."

"Sharing reflections and perspectives with the other women on the retreat was a beautiful experience, but equally important was the presence of the Jesuits who journeyed with us," said Karen Wuertz, head of the Boys Division at Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora, Colo., and a member of the Women's Advisory Committee.

"They were eager to listen and learn of our experiences and generous in their responses," Ms. Wuertz continued. "Their ability to carry back to their works a genuine understanding of and appreciation for the unique gifts of women's spirituality is essential for building bridges and partnerships among all who wish to contribute a vocation, whether vowed or lay, in the Society."

"It was so beautiful on the retreat to hear the shared hurts, pains and victories of women in mission alongside Jesuits," said Denise Diaz, a Spanish teacher at Jesuit High School in Tampa. "I am grateful for this opportunity to re-envision together and for the joy of being trusted first as Jesus trusted Mary Magdalene first with the Church when he revealed himself to her the morning of His resurrection."

Ms. Wuertz also noted that it was "profoundly impactful to connect with other women from around the province, hear their stories and witness their gifts."

"The retreat was helpful, but it doesn't negate the reality women face every day," said Fr. Ron Gonzales, SJ. "Even with women who are highly educated, talented, in love with the Church ... there is always a glass ceiling. But on this retreat, it seemed the women were able to give voice to their experience in a way they haven't felt able to before. I hope it is the beginning of our growing together."

## DECREE 14

The retreat and the Women's Advisory Committee have roots stemming back a generation to the Society of Jesus' 34th General Congregation in 1995. That Congregation's Decree 14 found the "unjust treatment and exploitation of women" to be a "central concern of any contemporary mission which seeks to integrate faith and justice."

The Jesuits at the Congregation cited not only the universality of the issue, but their own personal concern for the women who are their colleagues in the Society's mission. "We know that the nurturing of our own faith and much of our own ministry would be greatly diminished without the dedication, generosity, and joy that women bring to the schools, parishes, and other fields in which we labor together." (Decree 14, GC 34)





Father Bill Oulvey, SJ, presides at a liturgy during the province's Women's Retreat at White House Retreat in St. Louis.

The decree went on to commit the Society to make solidarity and reconciliation with women an integral part of its mission.

"Decree 14 sits in the background, where it influences and helps us understand what we're being called to," Fr. Oulvey said. "At the time, it fit the reality that the Church of the next millennia would be the Church of the laypeople. That's our Church today. So how do we, as religious and as priests, how do we support and encourage and learn to be colleagues?"

Ms. Diaz recalled a meeting with the previous provincial, Fr. Ron Mercier, at the Jesuit Schools Network Colloquium. "I was so moved when he told us, 'Don't ever think you work for the Society. You work *with* us,'"

“ My hope and prayer is that there will always be both men and women of all walks of life that we Jesuits are willing to listen to, learn from, work with, because that makes us better. That leads to a greater and deeper service of God's people and building up the Kingdom.

– Fr. Bill Oulvey, SJ

she said. “We – lay people and lay women – are in lock step with the Society. Our mission is Jesus. We are ambassadors for Christ cleverly disguised as teachers. This is job one: bring our students to God.”

The desire to live the commitment made during GC 34 extends beyond the UCS Province. On March 8, 2021 – International Women's Day – Superior General Arturo Sosa, SJ, announced the creation of the Commission on the Role and Responsibilities of Women in the Society of Jesus. He tasked the commission with evaluating the integration of Decree 14 and the roles of women in Jesuit institutions and then to make recommendations to strengthen the mission of the Society with the active participation of women.

The women who attended the retreat find all of these steps encouraging and empowering.

“This is a critical dialogue,” Ms. Wuertz said. “We represent generations of women whose sacrifices of time, effort and energy in service to the church have often been underrecognized and underappreciated. Our work pays homage to those who came before us and, hopefully, opens paths for those who will follow.”

“I hope that the Society will continue to educate us on how women are leading in this shared mission,” Ms. Diaz said.

“The goal for me and, I hope, for all of us, is to work for the moment when we are not judged by our gender, the color of our skin, our nationality, the place we grew up or our life preferences,” Fr. Oulvey said. “Instead, there will be love and respect and honor given to each person as a beloved child of God.”

“My hope and prayer is that there will always be both men and women of all walks of life that we Jesuits are willing to listen to, learn from, work with, because that makes us better. That leads to a greater and deeper service of God's people and building up the Kingdom. That's our job. That is our mission in life. That is our bottom line.”



# Province Congregation Guided by the *Holy Spirit*



Fr. Brian Christopher, SJ



Fr. Steven Schoenig, SJ

Father Provincial Thomas P. Greene, SJ, convened a province congregation in St. Louis, June 12 – 14. A province congregation is an administrative function of the Society of Jesus. Its primary duty is to elect a procurator to attend the Congregation of Procurators in Loyola, Spain, in May 2023. The international congregation will in turn decide whether it is necessary to call a larger, lengthier general congregation consisting of Jesuits from all over the world.

Father Brian J. Christopher, SJ, was elected procurator for the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province; Fr. Steven A. Schoenig, SJ, will serve as the substitute, should the need arise.

Father Schoenig preached the following homily at Mass before the balloting to choose the procurator.

## Homily before the Election of the Procurator

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace  
I give to you.”*

What is this peace? We can say what it is not: “Not as the world gives do I give it to you.” And what is the world’s peace? Merely an absence of war, strife and conflict — as when we pray for peace in Ukraine, or when we plead with those who threaten us: “Leave us in peace,” or when we make a “peace treaty” not to continue hostilities. By this measure, our congregation is quite peaceful. But Jesus isn’t simply wishing that his disciples won’t fight among themselves. What more does he mean?

When in doubt, I tend to look to obscure branches of history. In this case, it helps to look to early Christian epigraphy (the study of gravestones and catacomb inscriptions). In those inscriptions, *in pace* (“in peace”) is the



most frequently occurring phrase; in fact, archaeologists say that the presence of this phrase is enough to confirm that the tomb is Christian.

At first, we might think that the phrase simply means tranquility, for example when we read “She sleeps in peace.” But looking at them all, we come to realize that it clearly means something deeper: we read “He lived in peace,” “She died in peace,” “May you rise in peace,” “Peace be to you with the saints.”

What’s more, *pax* is often linked with another word, *communio* (“communion”), indicating the union of Christian believers, the community of the faithful, the bonds of fellowship that hold the Church together.

So, in early Christian usage, “peace” and “communion” seem to be synonyms. When we see the inscription, “She lived in peace,” we understand that she lived in the unity of the faith and sacraments of the Church. “He died in peace” means that he died in the community of the Church; “She will rise in peace” means that she will live again in the communion of saints; and the classic “Rest in peace” can be understood, “Now that you’re asleep in Christ, you’re still part of his body, still one with him, and with us in him.”

In other words, for early Christians, peace was something positive, the bonds of community that link the faithful to each other in the oneness of Christian faith in the body of the Church: *this* is what Jesus left us as his gift.

Thankfully, this isn’t something we have to conjure up on our own. Jesus has already given it to us. It comes to us from the Holy Spirit, sent to us in his name, speaking in our hearts so that we are united to him and need never be troubled or afraid. So, it isn’t

something far from us that we have to go get, but “something very near to us, already in our hearts: we have only to carry it out.”

These are fitting thoughts as we prepare to elect a procurator. We rely on the peace of Christ, his gift, to keep us in one body — his body. And, relying on the Holy Spirit prompting our hearts, “we have only to carry it out,” and not harden our hearts against it.

The advice of the second reading (Philippians 2:1-4) is addressed directly to each of us today: “Be of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart; don’t act out of selfishness or vainglory, but humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but for those of others.”

**“Be of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart; don’t act out of selfishness or vainglory, but humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.”**

Now, God knows that Jesuits have strong convictions and often disagree with each other. There’s no need to expect uniformity. But that doesn’t mean we should cling to the idol of our own opinions and politely tolerate everything else.

When I grasp that so-and-so, with a completely different background and completely different tastes, may have something to teach me, or that so-and-so, who rubs me the wrong way, plays a legitimate part in balancing out the whole, or that so-and-so, who sounds a dissonant note in the group, is contributing to a larger harmony, and when we see that all of us are brothers in the same body and each of us has been called here for a reason ... then we can stop dictating

and start listening. We can approach today as a true discernment, as the Holy Spirit using the limited instruments and partial views of each of us to surprise us with something new.

It’s like irregularly shaped tiles of diverse colors that in themselves show nothing, each one angled and catching the light slightly differently, but which, put together and seen from afar, coalesce to form a stunning mosaic.

In past congregations, I was moved during the voting. As I watched the numbers change, ballot after ballot, I could almost see the movements of the Spirit in real time, as if I were watching waves and currents and eddies in a pool as the Spirit blew upon it, or as if we were a single entity thinking things through, pondering different possibilities, gradually

coming to clarity. The only reason that the numbers *can* change from ballot to ballot is that we’re listening to each other, and we’re being sensitive to the Holy Spirit active in ways beyond our own angle and experience. We’re acting as a body, not a collection of individuals.

We begin today with Mass because *pax* and *communio* are especially represented in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist our peace and communion are shown, but also in the Eucharist our peace and communion are *made*. Let us approach the altar again, as brothers, to strengthen those bonds among ourselves and with the whole province, Society and Church.

– Steve Schoenig, SJ



# Andy and Pat Shannon

By Rosalie Tomeny

For decades, Andy and Pat Shannon have donated their time, talent and treasure to advancing the mission of the Society of Jesus. Each encountered the Jesuits at an early age.

Mr. Shannon graduated from Jesuit High School in Dallas in 1954. While there, Jesuit fathers Mike Kammer and Julius May made indelible impressions on him. A quality education and faith formation are two main gifts for which Mr. Shannon is grateful, in addition to the lifelong friendships he formed there — his friends from Jesuit often meet for lunch and conversation.

Pat Shannon has her own longstanding ties to the Jesuits. Born in Minneapolis, she recalls meeting Fr. William [Bill] Kelley, SJ, when she was about 10.

"I felt as if he saw my essence, and he made me feel special," she said. "I remember it still, and it warms my heart."

Mrs. Shannon also has a family connection to the Jesuits: her cousin, Fr. James Bretzke, SJ, is a professor of theology at John Carroll University in Cleveland.

The Shannons began making retreats as a married couple at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, Texas, in 1969. The fruits of those encounters with God and the Jesuits have encouraged them to work with and support the Jesuits financially. They developed strong friendships with several Jesuits.



"They were often guests in our home," Mrs. Shannon said.

She feels blessed to have had several Jesuit priests serve as her spiritual director, one of whom — the late Fr. George Wiltz, SJ — encouraged and supported her training in spiritual direction. Years later, Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ, certified her as a spiritual director.

"The reality of living as a person and couple for others permeates our life," they said. "We are keenly aware that we are created with purpose. We love God as we love and serve others."

The Shannons have served as premarital counselors and eucharistic ministers at their parish (St. Patrick in Dallas) for more than 40 years. Mrs. Shannon has volunteered at Montserrat Retreat House and continues to serve at Jesuit Dallas as a docent for the art museum.

The couple's three sons — Mike '78, Mark '79 and Matthew '90 — all attended Jesuit Dallas. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, a 1982 graduate of Ursuline Academy, took a physics course at Jesuit, so all four children enjoyed the Jesuit experience. Mrs. Shannon served

"WE BELIEVE GOD  
IS WITHIN AND  
AROUND US ALWAYS.  
WE ARE CRADLE  
CATHOLICS AND  
FEEL AFFIRMED  
AND LOVED AS  
WE WORK WITH THE  
JESUITS AND LIVE THE  
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES  
AS LAYPERSONS."



on the school board at Jesuit while her youngest son was a student.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Shannon participate in the Jesuit College Prep prayer group. “We have benefited from the prayers of others and pray with all our hearts for those who ask,” Pat said.

The Shannons remain invested in Jesuit education decades after their own children attended. The Shannon Family Scholarship – *A Man for Others*, which awards tuition assistance to a junior at Jesuit Dallas each year – is one way they continue to make an impact.

In addition, inspired by the impact the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius have had on their lives, they donate to Jesuit formation and Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House.

Mrs. Shannon has made a 30-day silent retreat at the Jesuit retreat house in Grand Coteau, La., and Mr. Shannon makes a retreat annually.

“The fruits of the Jesuits’ work motivate us,” said Andy.


Several Jesuits are beloved by the Shannons and have made a positive difference in their lives, including Jesuit Fathers Tetlow, Paul Deutsch and Wally Sidney, as well as Br. Ferrell Blank. Still, the couple continues to make new friends in the Society. They have found the message of Fr. William Barry, SJ, particularly inspiring and have enjoyed reading Fr. Mark Thibodeaux’s books.

Having been around Jesuits their whole lives, they find that they grow more impressed by the Society’s work as the years go by, and more assured of God’s presence and love.

“We believe God is within and around us always,” they said. “We are cradle Catholics and feel affirmed and loved as we work with the Jesuits and live the Spiritual Exercises as laypersons.”

It is Jesuit education and the concept of *magis* that is most impressive to them.

“Jesuit education forms men and women who make good, solid changes in themselves and the world,” they said. “*Magis*, the more, impels us.”



## Footsteps of St. Ignatius Pilgrimage

**MARCH 1, 2023 – MARCH 11, 2023**

The Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province invites you to walk where St. Ignatius walked and pray where St. Ignatius prayed, all in the company of a Jesuit priest and other like-minded pilgrims.

The pilgrimage will begin in Madrid, Spain, on March 1 and end in Barcelona on March 11, 2023.

**Father Brian Christopher, SJ,**  
will lead the pilgrimage and preside  
at private Masses each day.



**COST:** \$5,708/person double occupancy (land and air) from St. Louis or \$5,496/person from Dallas/Fort Worth

A full itinerary and additional details available at  
**[bit.ly/Pilgrimage2023](https://bit.ly/Pilgrimage2023)**





## John Guerra, SJ, Finds Joy in his Vocation

By Therese Fink Meyerhoff

Those who attended or watched the Jesuit ordinations in St. Louis this summer have been introduced to Jesuit John Guerra's newest composition of sacred music. Guerra, 25, wrote the Mass parts (the *Kyrie*, *Glory to God*, *Lamb of God*, etc.) for the ordination liturgy. *The Mass of the Mother of God* composed for Jesuit *schola* and orchestra was commissioned by the Jesuits being ordained and one example of the ways Guerra uses his talents to honor God.

An alumnus of Jesuit High School in New Orleans, Guerra first met several of his Jesuit brothers in the classroom. Chris Kellerman, SJ, and Thomas Croteau, SJ – one of this year's ordinands – taught him to chant the *Missa de Angelis* for the first time while they were at the school as part of their novice experience.

"I never heard it done before," Guerra said. "It changed my life."

Guerra took "The Theology of C.S. Lewis" with the late Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, SJ, and Jeremy Reuther. When asked what he learned in the class, Guerra replies, "God is good, and he made us to flourish. The only appropriate response is to have hope and anticipation."

Guerra clearly learned this lesson. He radiates joy. He is a man in love with his vocation, in love with his Savior and confident in the choices he's made to bring him to where he is today.

Two of the choices Guerra made along the way were to enter the seminary of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and then to leave after two years when he felt called to take the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a Jesuit.

"I wanted to leave everything behind," he says. "I wanted to be what God wanted me to be. I always wanted to see what would happen if I were to follow the life of Christ and now I could try it. It is not easy, but with good discernment, good superiors and good brothers, I always come back to the grace that this is my vocation."

Musical composition accompanies Guerra in his prayer, religious life and assignments. He has no formal training in composition, but draws inspiration from prayer, ministry and nature to write what comes to his mind and heart.

As a Jesuit studying philosophy and theology at Saint Louis University, he was made the director of music for the Catholic Studies Center. Guerra routinely composed the music for their student Masses. His goal was to get as many of the students to sing as possible.

"A lot of music is hard and doesn't let me pray, but I've realized that simple is beautiful," Guerra said. "I composed music for our Masses because there's just not a lot out there that fits specific situations, like a student Mass. I try to write music that students can sing with confidence and pray with ease."

Guerra believes this shared experience of singing together enhances the communal experience of the Masses.

"It is deeply real," he says. "It's not like there are just angels coming down to sing for us. It's people creating beauty together with angels. I want them to believe it and then feel it."

By creating this beauty, Guerra hopes to bring people closer to Jesus, as he has grown through the Society of Jesus and his experience of his vows.



# Brother Bob Macke, SJ, Adores God through Science

By Jerry Duggan



As curator of the Vatican Meteorite Collection and an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory in Rome, Br. Bob Macke, SJ, shows how science can be used to adore and worship God.

"I do not spend much of my time looking through a telescope – which is what most people would probably assume when they hear the word 'astronomer,'" Br. Macke said. "I am a research scientist, which means much of my work involves analyzing meteorites in the lab."

His work also has a more public component.

"One of the main purposes of the Vatican Observatory is to show how faith and science can work together, and I take great pride in being a rather public voice in advancing that notion," he said.

Brother Macke regularly speaks with visitors and school groups in

addition to giving presentations at other institutions and having an established presence on YouTube.

He arrived at this assignment by "following [his] passion and listening for God's call."

After earning a master's degree in physics, Br. Macke began postgraduate work at Washington University in St. Louis, when he finally started to pay attention to a persistent call to pursue a religious vocation.

"I had always felt some level of a calling to a religious vocation but had been too wrapped up in my education and hadn't paid attention to it," he said. "It got to a point where I couldn't ignore it any longer."

During his formation process, he was invited to visit the Vatican Observatory by Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, of the USA East Province, who now serves as its director. Years later, Br. Macke is working alongside him.

In addition to conducting research on the Vatican's extensive meteorite collection, Br. Macke measures the physical properties of specimens sent in by outside researchers. He also collaborates with both religious and lay partners on projects, papers and conference abstracts.

Brother Macke remains focused on the real purpose of his work.

"When I'm in the lab, I'm focused on science, but everything that I do is in a context of faith," he explained. "The best way for me to show that the Church supports science is to produce and promote good, well-researched scientific findings."

The Vatican Observatory has been staffed and run by Jesuits since 1935. Brother Macke is honored to follow in the footsteps of the Jesuits who have gone before him.

"Being able to be in Rome, representing the Society of Jesus at such an esteemed institution has been a dream of an assignment for me," he said.

The location of the observatory presents many opportunities.

"I pronounced my final vows earlier this year and had the privilege of having Superior General Arturo Sosa say the Mass," he said. "In addition, being so close to the Holy Father, and being around so many dedicated religious from around the world has also been a tremendous blessing."

The real reason he is in Rome is never far from his thoughts.

"The reason we, as a Church and Society, do this work, is to show praise and adoration toward God," he said. "The science itself, conducted with the right mindset, is a form of worship."



# Two Standards: Stepping out in Humility

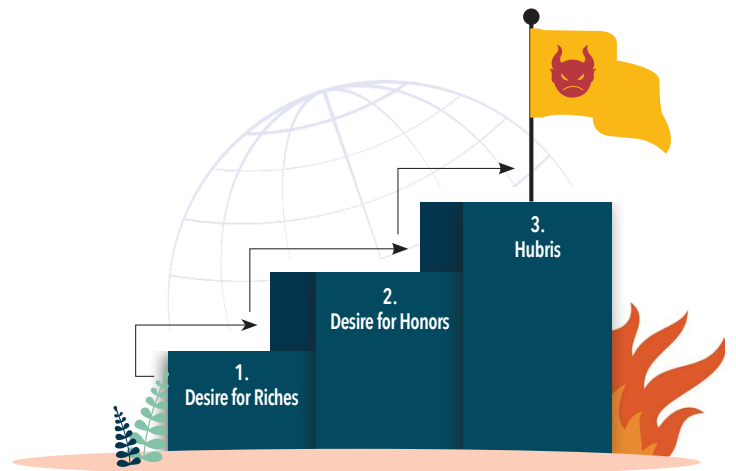
By Fr. José (Pepe) Andujo Ruiz, SJ

## There is an optical illusion called the Penrose effect. You may have seen it:

It is a stairwell that appears to ascend at every step and turn but is impossible because at the highest point you find yourself also at the original, lowest starting point. Jacob's stairwell has been used in a similar way to speak about God's surprising dream for the world and God's strategy to bring about God's Kingdom. St. Dominic, and many after him, picked this image to speak about humility in seven, twelve, or as many as 30 steps. The image shows each step "going down," but when you reach the lowest point, you have actually reached the highest: humility, fullness of life and union with God. In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius simplifies this idea to three steps.

**I**gnatius lays out God's strategy to bring about God's dream for the world in the contemplation of the Two Standards: the standard or banner of the "Kingdom of God," contrasted with the standard of the "Kingdom of Satan" – or "the World." Ignatius invites us to listen to the language and strategy each leader sets out for their respective followers.

Satan sits on a high chair among fire and smoke, sending demons to trap and enslave the masses via three simple steps: 1) Desire for riches, 2) Desire for honors, which lead naturally to 3) Hubris. Each step seems to move the person "up" in the world. However, the higher they go, the



closer they are to their demise. In a surprising twist, when they get to the top, they reach the bottom: the door to all vices. Consider the above diagram.

This strategy is still alive and well in our world today. The desire for riches is about appropriating every good thing (skills, degrees, money and properties) and using them for our personal benefit. This desire, alongside the desire for honors, seems to be a great motivator for many business and political leaders, as they pursue personal advancement rather than working to solve the toughest problems of our world.

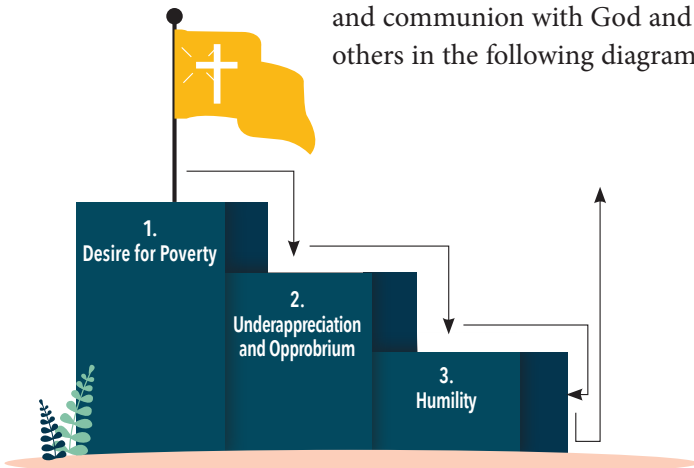
We see it in our own hearts, too, with the protection and comfort of having everything we keep for ourselves. We feel the pull of being respected, admired and acknowledged for our greatest features, not our full selves. We must take heed lest we forfeit true love for admiration, genuine relationship in community for domination and the servitude of others.

Ignatius quoted Mark 8:36 to his roommate, Francis Xavier: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"



In contrast, Christ walks with his friends on a field and invites them first to desire 1) Spiritual – and sometimes material – poverty, then 2) Underappreciation and opprobrium, which naturally lead to 3) Humility, “the door to all virtues” as Ignatius puts it.

We could illustrate this surprising stairwell that seems to go down in the world, but results in salvation, a full life and communion with God and others in the following diagram:



In John 13:14, Jesus leads by example: “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you do well, for I am so. If I, your Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet, you should go and do likewise.”

Following Christ through these steps might not feel great, but it comes with great fruits. The desire for poverty has to do with using every good thing at my disposal for a purpose other than myself, once my basic needs have been

met, like Jesus did in his life. If we live like this, we find that happiness does not reside in things, but that they are a means for relationship with God and with others. Things can easily become analgesics for pain we might need to heal or deal with.

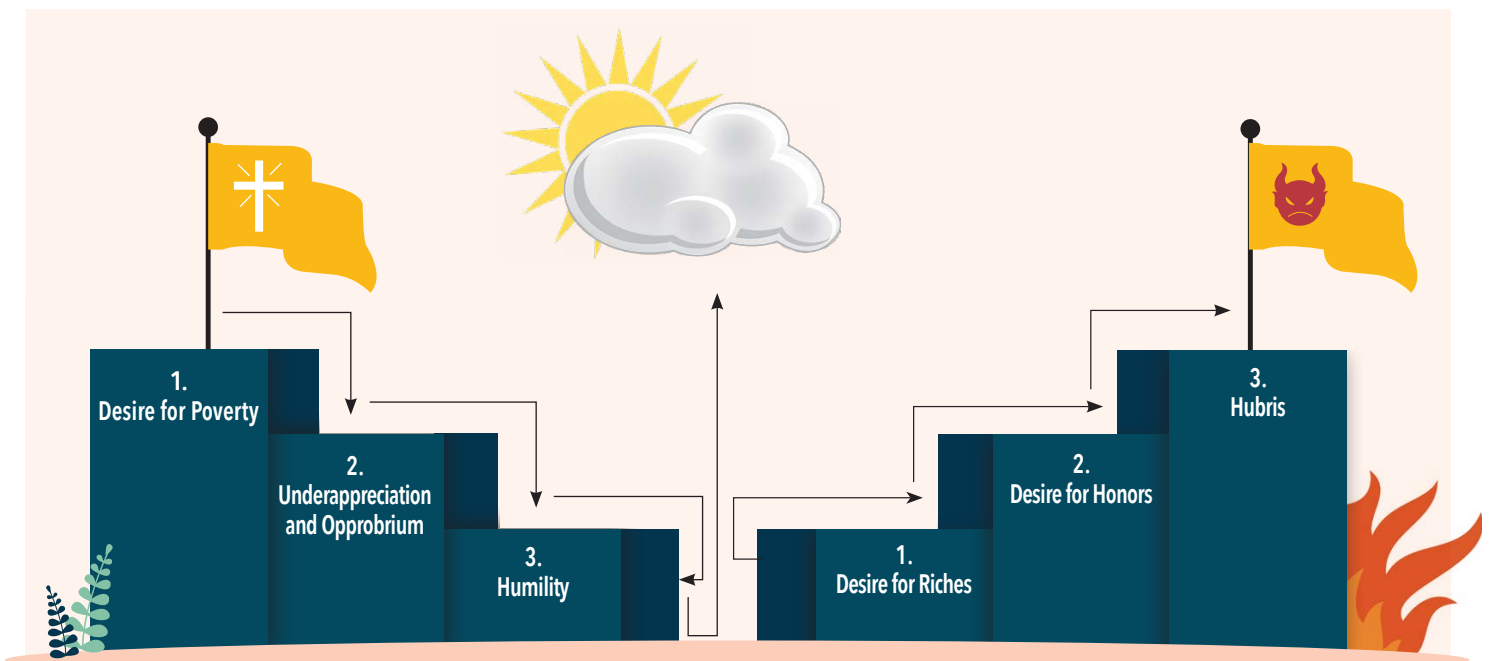
Secondly, being underappreciated or experiencing the opprobrium of making a mistake in public is never fun. However, these experiences confront me with how others see me, and thus allow me to check for those false images I create for myself.

If I am able to admit my limitations in public, I allow others to do the same, and if I am aware of my limitations, I will extend empathy when others mess up.

Thirdly, true humility requires us to live in truth with our gaze placed outside ourselves. False humility denies my gifts; true humility refers all my gifts to God and makes me grateful. It also recognizes all my limitations with self-compassion, and it becomes the virtue of constant growth, self-improvement and gazing at others with compassion.

We would do well to be mindful of these two value systems and their respective strategies and invitations. Stepping down is never fun, but our inner world gets restructured if we recognize that it's all just part of falling in love with Christ and following him.

**Fr. Pepe Ruiz, SJ**, is beginning a new assignment as a retreat and spiritual director at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, Texas.





---

---

# IN MEMORIAM

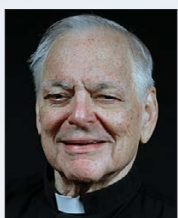
*Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.*

## Brother Anthony S. Coco, SJ



Brother Anthony Coco, SJ, followed his older brother into the Society of Jesus, but unlike his brother, he became a Jesuit brother. In 1966, he was chosen for a new mission in Campinas, Brazil, where he worked with the poor, teaching them trades. He remained in this ministry until 2005, when he was assigned to maintenance duties at Ignatius Residence, the Jesuit retirement community in New Orleans. He died Jan. 9, 2022, in Grand Coteau, La. He was 92 years old, and a Jesuit for 64 years.

## Father John J. Callahan, SJ



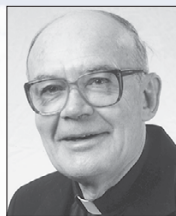
Father Jack Callahan, SJ, had an easy way of connecting with people, gently guiding colleagues and retreatants into deeper relationship with God. Born in Plymouth, Wisc., he followed his brother William into the Society of Jesus as a member of the Wisconsin Province. He served in administration at several Jesuit universities: Creighton, Regis, Rockhurst and Saint Louis. His final active assignment was leading retreats at Manresa House of Retreats and in Grand Coteau, La. He died Jan. 21, 2022, in St. Louis. He was 82 years old, a Jesuit for 64 years and a priest for 51 years.

## Father Leo A. Nicoll, SJ



Father Leo Nicoll, SJ, died Feb. 16, 2022, in Grand Coteau, La. He was 90 years old, a Jesuit for 73 years and a priest for 60 years. Remembered by his Jesuit brothers as a great teacher and conversationalist, the Texas native spent most of his teaching career at Loyola University New Orleans. He was challenging but fair and had a tremendous knowledge of modern European history. His quick wit, keen insight and kindness made him a great companion. He is missed.

## Father Frederick G. McLeod, SJ



Father Fred McLeod, SJ, died March 7, 2022, in St. Louis. He was 90 years old, a Jesuit for 72 years, a priest for 60 years and a professor of theology at Saint Louis University for more than 30 years. Following his retirement at SLU in 2006, he continued his passion for writing about theology until his death. Father McLeod entered the Society of Jesus as a member of the New England Province, and he remained a member of that province – now the USA East Province. He was a true gentleman and a truly gentle man.

## Father Donald J. Martin, SJ



Father Don Martin, SJ, died April 3, 2022, in Grand Coteau, La. The New Orleans native taught theology at Spring Hill College, Loyola University New Orleans and Notre Dame Seminary, the major seminary of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He loved to teach, and his students loved him in return. A skilled raconteur, his entertaining stories often highlighted his own foibles. He considered his Jesuit vocation his greatest gift. Father Martin was 90 years old, a Jesuit for 72 years and a priest for almost 60 years.

## Father Charles Thibodeaux, SJ



Father Charles Thibodeaux, SJ, died May 15, 2022, in Grand Coteau, La., within 10 miles of his birthplace of Carencro, La. But that circumstance belies the truth of his ministry: Fr. Thibodeaux was a missionary for nearly 40 years, ministering to the poor in Paraguay. Prior to going to Paraguay, Fr. Thibodeaux taught at Jesuit High School New Orleans and served at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Grand Coteau for nearly 20 years. Father Thibodeaux was 93 years old, a Jesuit for 75 years and a priest for almost 63 years.

**MORE**  
ON THE WEB

For complete obituaries, visit the province website:  
[www.JesuitsCentralSouthern.org/in-memoriam](http://www.JesuitsCentralSouthern.org/in-memoriam).





# Joseph Nolla, SJ

MY PRAYER SPACE



Joseph Nolla, SJ, has completed two years of first studies at Saint Louis University. As with any student, time is tight, so Joe finds ways to incorporate his prayer into his other daily activities. He shared a few examples with us.



## Shoes

I like praying on the move. Some of my most profound experiences in prayer have been while running. I also find that a good quiet walk is conducive to prayer. Walking around and looking prayerfully at whatever I see feels like God is giving me a tour of where he is.

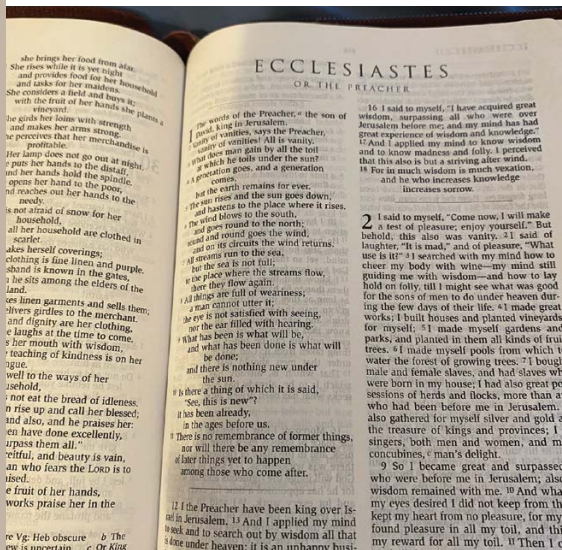
## Earphones

Music helps me pray. Sometimes it's Beethoven's 9th Symphony and I'm imagining the choir of Heaven rejoicing over one repentant sinner. Sometimes I'm just listening to Rock and imagining the song as a dialogue between God and the soul. In either case, music has a way of letting the prayer reach a more deeply emotional level.



## Tabernacle

There is no better place for me to pray than near the Blessed Sacrament, especially if the room is somewhat dark. If I want to talk to God, it's a great place to be. If my mind isn't up to the task of prayer, there's still value in being physically there in God's presence and sharing time with him.

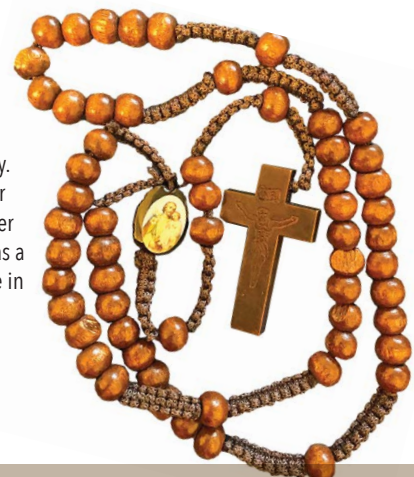


## The Bible

The Bible is that rare kind of book that always feels fresh no matter how many times I open it. Something in there is certain to reach my heart if my heart is open to it.

## Rosary

I like to have a rosary nearby. It's good for a walk, good for a few minutes of quiet prayer before Mass, and it's good as a comforting gift for someone in distress.



If you are no longer interested in receiving Jesuits magazine, please let us know. Contact [UCSAdvancement@Jesuits.org](mailto:UCSAdvancement@Jesuits.org) or 1-800-325-9924. Visit <https://www.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/no-magazine/> to update your contact preferences.

# What an incredible gift to be Ordained a Priest in the Society of Jesus



"Many times in my Jesuit life,  
I have been aware of how freely I can  
dedicate myself to work and study  
because of the generosity of others.  
By the grace of God, I am able to care for  
others as I have been cared for first.  
Thank you so much for the kind, loving and  
generous support that makes possible our  
ongoing commitment to the service of God.  
May God bless you!"

– Juan Ruiz, SJ  
Ordained a priest on June 11, 2022



## YOU HELP FORM JESUITS.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MEN IN FORMATION!